

NHPA Amendments of 1992

Jerry L. Rogers

On October 30 the President signed legislation that included the National Historic Preservation Act Amendments of 1992. This was the culmination of several years of effort by historic preservationists, primarily in state and local government and the private sector, to make significant changes in the law. Ideas, some supported by the National Park Service and some not, had been threshed out in countless committee meetings of the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers and in other forums. The resulting bill was introduced by former senator Wyche Fowler of Georgia in the 101st Congress and reintroduced with modifications in the 102nd Congress by Fowler and Congressman Charles Bennett of Florida. Major modifications continued to be made in the House and Senate committees and in conference between the two houses. Few, if any, historic preservation bills had been the subject of so much effort by the time the President signed this one into law.

Although the minor changes are numerous, the major ones can be grouped into three areas: relationships with State Historic Preservation Officers, Tribal Historic Preservation Programs, and Preservation Technology. The law defines the duties of State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPOs) more comprehensively than before, but in ways that basically confirm traditional NPS management of the federal-state partnership. NPS is now authorized to fund and maintain the partnership through contracts and cooperative agreements, but it is not yet certain that there would be advantage in using such devices rather than the current grant relationship. A clear and strong authority to develop historic preservation programs among Indian tribes became law, with the support of NPS, the SHPOs, and other partners. If tribal programs meet prescribed standards, they can assume the roles heretofore played by SHPOs with regard to tribal lands. The Center for Preservation Technology and Training was established and was situated at Northwestern State University of Louisiana at Natchitoches. The WASO Cultural Resource programs have developed a "Statement of Program Approach" which offers a preliminary and informal interpretation of each change, and suggests the ways in which

NPS proposed to implement them. The Statement is being circulated to SHPOs, federal agencies, local governments, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and other partners. Their comments will be considered before NPS begins to draft the formal changes in regulations, guidelines, and other documents by which the law will be implemented.

It is anticipated that the Center for Preservation Technology and Training will become the long-needed cultural Resource Research Program. Growing out of a 1986 study by the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment, the Center is an entirely new entity within the Department of the Interior that is to conduct, coordinate, and financially support research, technology transfer, and training in the field of historic preservation. It is to meet needs of national park units, other agencies, states, local governments, Indian tribes, and the private sector—in other words, to support the full historic preservation mission of the NPS. By means of a Preservation Technology and Training Board, the Center is expected to draw upon the strength and knowledge of a wide range of disciplines and institutions as it decides which preservation problems to tackle, and in what order. Implementers are intent upon making it a major gain for historic preservation, which means that it must supplement, rather than supplant, current activities in research, technology transfer, and training. Both the Service and Northwestern State University are strongly and enthusiastically committed to the program. Its location at Natchitoches puts it in the oldest European town in the Louisiana Purchase, and in the heart of colonial-era competition between Spain, France, and England for domination of North America.

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Publications

AIC Journal

The American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works announces *The 1993 Journal of the American Institute for Conservation*. The *Journal* contains articles on current issues and technical procedures. Topics focus on the conservation of books and paper, paintings, photographic materials, sculpture, wooden artifacts, objects, ethnographic materials, archeological objects, and architectural materials.

For information on subscription rates as well as obtaining back issues and cumulative indexes of the *Journal*, contact the American Institute for Conservation of Historic & Artistic Works, 1400 16th Street, NW, Suite 340, Washington, DC 20036; 202-232-6636; fax: 202-232-6630.

Canal Guide

A field guide to the historic canals and navigable rivers of Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, and the District of Columbia is now available from the American Canal Society. This is the fifth in the society's American Bicentennial series of regional inventories of the Nation's historic canal resources, *The American Canal Guide*.

Part five covers 506 miles of towpath canals and over 1,800 miles of upland river navigation. Altogether, 508 locks and lock locations have been identified in this region. It is essential to know where these historic canal resources are if they are to be used for parks, historical research, and archeological studies.

The goal of the American Canal Guide series is to provide park planners, historians, and canal enthusiasts with a basic inventory of America's historic canal resources for research, preservation, restoration, and the creation of parks, trails, and open space.

The guide has 31 pp, 65 illustrations and maps, and costs \$3.00 ppd. Order from ACS Sales, 2240 Ridgeway Ave., Rochester, NY 14626.

For information on the American Canal Society, or to apply for membership, write to Charles W. Derr, Secretary-Treasurer, 117 Main Street, Freemansburg, PA 18017.

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Oral Histories Tell Tobacco Story

Tobacco barns dot the landscape of Southern Maryland's Calvert County as year-round reminders of the crop which has dominated the area's economy for hundreds of years. Unseen is the story of people for whom tobacco is a "culture" and life. *The Money Crop* shares their words and memories from collected oral histories accompanied by a photographic story. The book, edited by Sally V. McGrath and Patricia J. McGuire, captures the intensity of the labor, agriculture's impact on the family, and the cycle of activity from cultivating, cutting, hanging, stripping, and packing for market. More than 28 oral histories were collected; sections of the book outline the tobacco process, covering tobacco and the land, labor and the harvest, storing and processing, the market, lifestyle, and the future.

The Money Crop: Tobacco Culture of Calvert County, Maryland is available by direct mail for \$8.95 per copy, plus \$2.50 for postage and handling, from Maryland Historical and Cultural Publications/DHCD, c/o Department of Finance, Central Cashier, P.O. Box 500, Crownsville, MD 21032-0500.

Information Series

The National Trust for Historic Preservation has published six new *Information Booklets*.

Maintaining Community Character: How to Establish a Local Historic District by Pratt Cassity provides citizens with a proactive strategy for influencing local policy and opinions regarding what can be one of the most important and controversial decisions a community can make—the creation of a local historic district.

Cultural and Ethnic Diversity in Historic Preservation by Elizabeth A. Lyons examines some of the issues surrounding the preservation of diverse ethnic and cultural sites and suggests ways to encourage increased participation by minorities in the preservation movement.

In Search of Collaboration: Historic Preservation and the Environmental Movement by Edward T. McMahon and A. Elizabeth Watson explores the potential partnerships between preservationists and conservationists and suggests ways to ensure that our natural and cul-

tural environments are preserved for future generations.

Controlling Disaster: Earthquake-Hazard Reduction for Historic Buildings by Rachel Cox outlines the steps to take to assess the risk for your particular building, to identify your goals, and to select and work productively with an engineer or other qualified professional.

Building Support Through Public Relations: A Guide for Nonprofit Preservation Organizations by Olivia Meyer explains how to conduct a successful public relations campaign and includes tips on news release, press conference, radio and TV spots, public service announcements, and special events.

Accessibility Leaflet

Providing accessibility for people with disabilities in our Nation's historic buildings, sites, and structures is an important and challenging task. To balance accessibility and historic preservation mandates, owners of historic properties should take care to provide the greatest level of accessibility without threatening or destroying features and materials that convey a property's significance. An information pamphlet entitled "Preserving the Past and Making It Accessible for People With Disabilities" provides answers to some of the most common questions about historic properties and their relationship to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). For more information, contact the author, Thomas C. Jester, National Park Service, Preservation Assistance Division, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127.

Systems in Houses of Worship: A Guide to Heating, Cooling, Ventilation, Electrical and Lightning Protection Systems by Michael Cruz and Neal A. Vogel examines the development of various building systems and provides guidance on routine maintenance.

The cost for each *Information* booklet is \$5.00 including postage and handling. The cost for bulk orders (any 10 or more copies) is \$2.50 per copy, plus a \$5.00 postage and handling charge. Orders are shipped prepaid only. Contact Information Series, National Trust for Historic Preservation, 1785 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20036; 202-673-4000; Fax: 202-673-4038.

Landmarks Children's Booklet

The Great American Landmarks Adventure, created by Kay Weeks; drawings by Roxie Munro. This fun and educational book for children depicts 43 National Historic Landmarks, from a prehistoric cave painting to the 1969 moon rocket, and explains their significance in representing events, achievements, ideals, and cultures in America. The cost is \$3.25; stock number is 024-005-01105-6. Order from: Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402-9325.

Labor National Historic Landmark Theme Study

On August 17, 1991, President Bush signed P.L. 102-101 authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to prepare and transmit to the Congress a National Historic Landmark theme study on American labor history (*CRM*, Vol. 15, Nos. 2 and 5).

The purpose of the theme study is to identify the key sites in American labor history, including the history of workers and their work, of organizing, unions and strikes, of the impacts of industrial and technological change, and of the contributions of American labor to American history, for possible designation as National Historic Landmarks. In addition, the theme study will recommend a selected number of sites for possible addition to the national park system.

The labor theme study will be completed under contract over a three-year period. Work to be completed during the first year will include a thematic essay of at least 100 pages in length outlining the history of workers and their work and the contribution of workers to American history, of organizing, unions and strikes, and of the impacts of industrial labor to American history. Appended to this essay will be a list of recommended sites to be considered for further study within the context of the theme of labor history.

During the second year the contractor will oversee the completion of a minimum of 20 nominations of new sites for designation as National Historic Landmarks in the labor history theme. These sites will be chosen to reflect the full diversity of America's labor history and will reflect and illustrate the themes developed in the thematic essay previously prepared.

During the third year the contractor will work with the National Park Service planning office to determine what sites have high potential to meet the criteria for suitability and feasibility as defined by National Park Service management policies.

Any suggestions regarding the form and content of this study, sites to be considered, or other inquiries should be directed to: Harry Butowsky, National Park Service, History Division, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; Phone: 202-343-8155.